the years 2004-2005, 2005-06, 2006-07 and for the period April, 2007 to February, 2008, respectively.

The month-wise details are available with the Directors (Marketing) of the concerned OMCs.

OMCs have also reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country including in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

However, OMCs had reported backlog in LPG supplies in certain States in the country due to reduction in supply of bulk LPG by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) & Essar Oil Limited in January and February 2008, delay in movement of bulk LPG by rail from Jamnagar to the Northern Region, increased demand in the States due to severe cold which resulted in panic booking by the customers, strikes by contract labour, agitational activities, delays in berthing of vessels at Haldia Port due to reduced draft, bandhs etc.

Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the States by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours. Increased bottling is also being done during the working days for early clearance of backlog.

Scarcity of LPG

1960. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a severe scarcity of LPG in the country causing abnormal delays in delivery of cylinders to consumers;

(b) if so, the details of total production, demand and actual supply of LPG in States/ Union Territories for the last two years, till date;

(c) whether Government is also aware of hoarding and black marketing of LPG including supply of defective LPG cylinders by certain oil marketing companies;

(d) if so, reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government have issued any directives/instructions to Oil Marketing Companies in this regard, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. OMCs have further reported that they have supplied 8450 TMT (Thousand Metric Tonnes) of domestic LPG in the country during the period April, 2007-January, 2008 as against 8030 TMT during the corresponding period of last year, showing a growth of 5.2%.

However, OMCs had reported backlog in LPG supplies in certain States in the country due to a combination of factors viz., reduction in supply of bulk LPG by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) & Essar Oil Limited in January and February 2008, delay in movement of bulk LPG by rail from Jamnagar to the Northern Region, increased demand in the States due to severe cold which resulted in panic booking by the customers, strikes by contract labour, agitational activities, delays in berthing of vessels at Haldia Port due to reduced draft, bandhs etc.

Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the States by operating the bottling plants on Holidays and during extended hours. Increased bottling is also being done during the working days for early clearance of backlog.

(b) At present the indegenous production of LPG is inadequate to meet domestic requirements. The shortfall in availability is met through imports. The details of LPG domestic production, imports, availability and the demand for domestic LPG in the country during the last two years and April, 2007-January, 2008 is given in the statement. (*See* below)

(c) to (e) The possibility of black marketing of subsidized domestic LPG cylinders by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to the wide gap between the retail price of LPG for domestic use and the market price for commercial LPG.

In order to stop black marketing of LPG cylinders, the Government has enacted "Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000" and formulated "Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 2001" which provides for penal action against LPG distributors indulging in black marketing of LPG.

Whenever OMCs receive complaints, these are investigated and if the complaint is established, suitable action is taken against the LPG distributor(s) in accordance with the provisions of the MDG. MDG provides for following action against the distributor:-

Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.

Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence.

Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

In addition to the action taken by the OMCs, State Governments are empowered under the LPG (Regulation of Supply & Distibution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities act, 1955 to take action against black marketing of domestic LPG. Similarly the Weights and Measures Departments of the States/UTs initiate legal action against those LPG distributors found supplying under-weight LPG cylinders. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the black-marketing of domestic cylinders for unauthorised usage.

Government have issued advertisements cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is illegal, dangerous and against national interest. Through these advertisements, cooperation of the general public has also been sought to report any irregularity/malpractice to the OMCs.

The officials of OMCs carry out checks at distributors' godowns, delivery points, as well as en-route to ensure that no pilferage takes place. The distributors of OMCs are under strict instructions to check the weight of cylinders at that godowns before delivery, and only cylinders with the specified weight are to be delivered to the customers. The

distributors have also been instructed to ensure that the seals are verified & shown to the customers at the time of delivery. In case any under-weight cylinder is received by the customer, such cylinders are replaced with a fresh refill cylinder without any charges levied by the OMCs.

Statement

The details of LPG domestic production, imports, availability and the demand for domestic LPG in the country during the last two years and April, 2007-January, 2008

(Figures in Thousand Metric Tonnes) (TMT)

Period	Production	Imports	Total supply/ Availability	Demand for LPG
2005-06	7647	2453	10100	944
2006-07	8409	1981	10390	9742
2007-08 (April 2007 to January, 2008)	7261	2015	9276	8451

Renovation of old oil fields

†1961. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has identified oilfields which were under production since decades ago and now require renovation;

(b) if so, the detals thereof;

(c) the production rate in these oil fields, at present;

(d) the estimated rate of production after renovation thereof; and

(e) the total amount required for their renovation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINESHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has identified 14 of its major oil and gas fields which contribute nearly 80% of the total production, for implementing Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) and Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) schemes to augment oil and gas production in Mumbai High, Heera, Neelam, Gandhar, Kalol, Sanand, North Kadi, Santhal, Balol, Sobhasan, Lakwa and Rudra Sagar.

(c) to (e) The combined production performance of these fields have improved from level of 52200 Tonnes Per Day (TPD) in April, 2000 to 57078 TPD by March, 2007 an increase of 9.3%. The total incremental oil gain is expected to be 110.82 Metric Tonnes (MMT) by the year 2029-30. The total approved cost of the IOR-EOR schemes of ONGC is of the order of Rs. 14060.25 crore.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.